



Our Lady of Compassion Catholic School

Kineton Green Road
Solihull
B92 7EG

Tel: 0121 706 9508

Email: office@olc.solihull.sch.uk

Website: <http://www.olc.solihull.sch.uk/>



To Live As Jesus Taught Us.

School Newsletter – 2

Date: Friday 19th September 2025

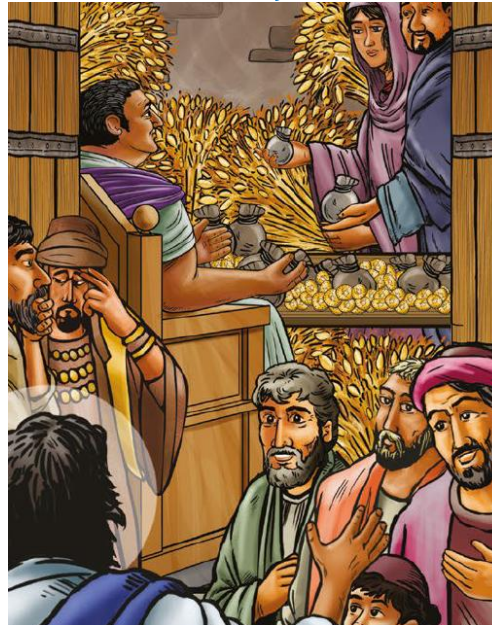
Dear Parents, Carers and Children,
As we settle into the rhythm of the new term, I want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible spirit and dedication of our school community. The recent FOLC Fun Day was a shining example of what we can achieve when we come together with purpose, creativity, and joy. From the tireless efforts of our Friends of the OLC to the enthusiastic participation of staff, pupils, and families, the day was a resounding success - filled with laughter, connection, and a true sense of belonging. It was heartening to see so many people enjoying the activities, supporting one another, and contributing to a vibrant atmosphere that showcased the very best of our school. The funds raised will go directly towards enriching the experiences of our children, and the memories made will last far longer.

Thank you to everyone who played a part - whether behind the scenes or front and centre. Your commitment and positivity continue to make our school a place where every child can thrive.

Warm regards,
Mr N Emery (Headteacher)



Wednesday Word



While on earth, we are given 'free will' and God our Father trusts us to use it wisely. There may be times when we make a wrong choice, but we can trust that God is always there to help us start again. This Sunday's Gospel reminds us about the value of being trustworthy people. We can show this by making good choices – especially when it comes to the use of money. When we give God first place in our lives – using our talents, our time and our money to serve God – we are blessed here and now and can be certain that we will be rewarded in the life to come too.

Harvest Gifts

On Monday 15th September, we started our collection for the Harvest Mass at the Friary that will take place on Sunday 5th October. If you wish to support and donate any dried or packets of food, please send these into school with your child(ren) by Friday 3rd October, so that we can transport the donations to the Friary. We thank you in advance for your generosity and support.

SUMMARY

- Wednesday Word
- Harvest Gifts
- Olton Friary Link
- Dates for 25/26
- Nursery Admissions 2025/26
- School Photographs
- Parking
- Working Together Meetings
- Prefect Service
- Online Safety
- Birthday Treats
- Secondary Applications
- FOLC Family Fun Day
- Flower Festival
- Fairtrade Fortnight
- Open Day
- Homework Expectations
- School App

Olton Friary Link



To hear all about the wonderful events that take place at the Olton Friary please follow this link below that will lead you to their notice page on their website:
<https://www.oltonfriary.org.uk/weekly-notices/>

Dates for 2025/26

Further dates will be added throughout the term

21.9.25 – International Day of Peace
22.9.25 – Fairtrade Fortnight begins
24.9.24 – National Fitness Day
26.9.25 – Day of Thanksgiving for Harvest
29.9.25 – Little Way Week
1.10.25 – School Photographs
1.10.25 – Black History Month begins
1.10.25– Month of the Holy Rosary begins
1.10.25 – Feast Day of St. Therese
2.10.25 – Feast Day of Guardian Angels
3.10.25 – Cafod Family Fast Day
3.10.25 – Season of Creation ends
3.10.25 – Year 6 Prefect Service at Friary – 2pm
7.10.25 – Feast Day of Our Lady of the Rosary
9.10.25 – Feast Day of St John Henry Newman
10.10.25 – World Mental Health Day – children to wear splash of yellow with school uniform
10.10.25 – FS2/Y6 Buddies Service – 2.15pm
11.10.25 – Olton Friary Pilgrim of Hope Flower Festival
12.10.25 – Feast Day of St Wilfrid
13.10.25 – Feast Day of St Edward
16.10.25 – World Food Day
17.10.25 – Year 6 Trip to St. Chad's
17.10.25 – FOLC Disco at OLC
20.10.25 – Diwali
23.10.25 – Last day of half-term for pupils
24.10.25 – School Closed to pupils for INSET Day
31.10.25 – Closing date for Secondary Applications
1.11.25 – All Saints' Day – Holy Day of Obligation
3.11.25 – School reopens for Autumn Term 2
4.11.25 – FS1/FS2 Open Day – 5pm
10.11.25 – World Science Day
10.11.25 – Anti-bullying Week
11.11.25 – Remembrance Day
12.11.25 – Parents' Evening
13.11.25 – Parents' Evening
14.11.25 – Children in Need
17.11.25 – Road Safety Week
17.11.25 – Flu Immunisations (FS2 to Y6)
19.11.25 – Drop Everything and Read Day
20.11.25 – World Children's Day
20.11.25– OLAAS MAC celebration Day
20.11.25 – One Life Retreat Day – Y6
21.11.25 – End of Jubilee Year
23.11.25 – Christ the King – Youth Mass
30.11.25 – St. Andrew's Day
30.11.25 – Advent begins
3.12.25 – FS2 Nativity – 9.20am

Dates for 2025/26 Continued

6.12.25 – Christmas Fayre at OLC
9.12.25 – Last Swimming Session for Class 6D
10.12.25 – FS1 Nativity – 9.20am
11.12.25 – Y4/Y5/Y6 Reconciliation
12.12.25 – Christmas Jumper Day
12.12.25 – FS1 Application Deadline for 26/27
12.12.25 – KS1 Carols – 9.30am
12.12.25 – LKS2 Carols – 10.30am
12.12.25 – UKS2 Carols – 2.30pm
16.12.25 – Stay and Pray Whole School – 2.30pm
17.12.25 – Christmas Dinner Day
18.12.25 – Party Day
18.12.25 – Whole School Theatre performance at School for children
19.12.25 – Toy Day
19.12.25 – Last Day of Term before Christmas Holidays – School finishes at 2pm

School Photographs



On Wednesday 1st October, we will be having individual photographs taken for each child. All children are to wear their school uniform on the day; any classes that would usually have PE are to bring their PE kit to change into before their PE lesson.

Nursery Admission 2025/26



If you are interested in places for your child to begin with us in Nursery this school year (2025/26), please contact the school office.

Parking

The graphic features the West Midlands Police logo at the top left. The main text is in large, bold, yellow letters: "IS YOUR CAR PARKED ILLEGALLY?". Below this, it says "It is if..." followed by a list of illegal parking scenarios. At the bottom, it states "THE CONSEQUENCES" and "A fine and potentially points on your licence". On the right side, there are two yellow zig-zag lines representing school zones, with the text "SCHOOL - KEEP - CLEAR" written vertically between them.

West Midlands POLICE

IS YOUR CAR PARKED ILLEGALLY?

It is if...

- You are parked within 10 metres of a junction
- You are parked in front of an entrance to a property
- Parked on Zig Zag lines
- Parked on Double Yellow Lines
- Parked causing any other obstruction

THE CONSEQUENCES
A fine and potentially points on your licence

SCHOOL - KEEP - CLEAR

Working Together Meetings

It was wonderful this week to welcome families to the Working Together Meetings. These events are a crucial opportunity for us to be able to share with you our expectations for the school year for your child(ren). PowerPoints from these meetings will be uploaded to the curriculum area of the website in the coming week – please take some time to view these if you were unable to attend.

Year 6 Prefect Service

Please join us on Friday 3rd October at 2pm, at Olton Friary Church for our Year 6 Prefects Service where the children will be blessed and commissioned as Prefects, reaffirming their pledge to pupil leadership within the Catholic community of our school. In their new role, the children will have the opportunity to further embed their commitment to our school mission statement – to live as Jesus taught us.

Online Safety #Wake Up Wednesday

For further information, please visit the National Online Safety website.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SNAPCHAT

With over 600 million active monthly users and billions of 'snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures and videos are only viewable for a short period of time.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the My AI Chatbot and AI-powered filters, which can be used to generate content that can be used to spread misinformation. These tools may also be used to generate deepfakes (realistic but false audio or video recordings) that can be used to spread misinformation or to impersonate someone.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and time spent with features like streaks. Streaks prompt exchanges between you and a friend, where a streak is broken if a few days go by (up to a point). The number of streaks a user has is a measure of how often they use the app and can be used to pressure friends into sending snaps.

SEXUATION

Because Snapchat's messaging features are ephemeral, users may feel a sense of safety, which may increase their risk of sextortion. For example, if someone pressures someone into sending explicit images, they can delete the images from their phone, but the person who received the images will have a copy of the images on their phone.

ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is not accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use the app on a mobile device without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, cause the apprehension of parental controls, and increase the risk of inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The images used to generate content are determined by the platform, which means that inappropriate content may be shared. This content can be used to generate explicit images on Snapchat, so any child who uses the app should be aware of the risks.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Accessed with guidance from Children's Services, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use it safely. It also provides a range of resources for parents and educators to help them understand the risks of Snapchat. Remember, the app is only available for children aged 13 and over.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger contacts with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable, they should be blocked and reported. Snapchat has a reporting system that allows users to report inappropriate content, such as explicit images or videos, to the app's moderators. If you are a parent or educator, you should encourage children to report any inappropriate content they see on the app.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

It is important to discuss with children their privacy and Snapchat's privacy settings. As the app is used by a large number of children, it is important to ensure that children are aware of their privacy settings and how to use them. Encourage children to use their privacy settings to control who can see their content and to report any inappropriate content they see on the app.

Meet Our Expert

Dr. Claire Fothergill is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and online safety policies for schools. She has written various educational papers and national research for the Australian Government regarding internet use and online behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

#WakeUpWednesday **The National College**

Fairtrade Fortnight

Fairtrade Fortnight is a national campaign that celebrates the people behind some of our favourite products - from farmers to factory workers - and highlights the importance of fair prices, decent working conditions, and sustainable practices. For the next two weeks, our school will be exploring how choosing Fairtrade items can make a real difference to communities around the world and we ask that when you are out and about in the shops with your children, you take time to discuss these products with your children and even consider changing to these. It is a great opportunity for children to learn about global citizenship and ethical choices in a fun and engaging way.

Flower Festival



On Friday 10th October, the Olton Friary will begin its Flower Festival as part of the Year of Hope. Every group associated with the Friary will create a floral decoration which will be displayed at the Church from the 10th October and over the weekend. OLC will be making floral decorations from each of the phases (FS, KS1, LKS2 and UKS2) and we hope you are able to come along and see these on display. You are also invited to the Mass on Friday 10th October, which will be celebrated by Bishop David Evans. Our choir will also be singing during Mass. We look forward to this celebration and hope you can join us.

Birthday Treats



Just as a reminder - children are able to bring in small bags of sealed sweets to give out for their birthday (if they wish to); these will be given out at the end of the school day.

Secondary Applications



The closing date for secondary school 2026 applications is 31st October. Solihull residents should apply on the online portal at www.solihull.gov.uk/pp Applications received after the closing date will not be processed until after the offers are made in March. Applying late will affect the offer you can expect to receive. For residents outside of the borough, please contact your home authority to submit an application.



We are looking forward to our Open Day in November where we will have the opportunity to meet prospective parents who are looking for a school place for their child for September 2026. We will be holding the Open Day on 4th November at 5pm - this will be held in the school hall.

Homework Expectations



Please take some time to familiarise yourselves with the information shared with you at the Working Together Meetings regarding homework expectations, so that you can support your child's learning at home. Please also remember that the Weekly Learning Plans are published on our website every week. These can also be used alongside your child's homework.

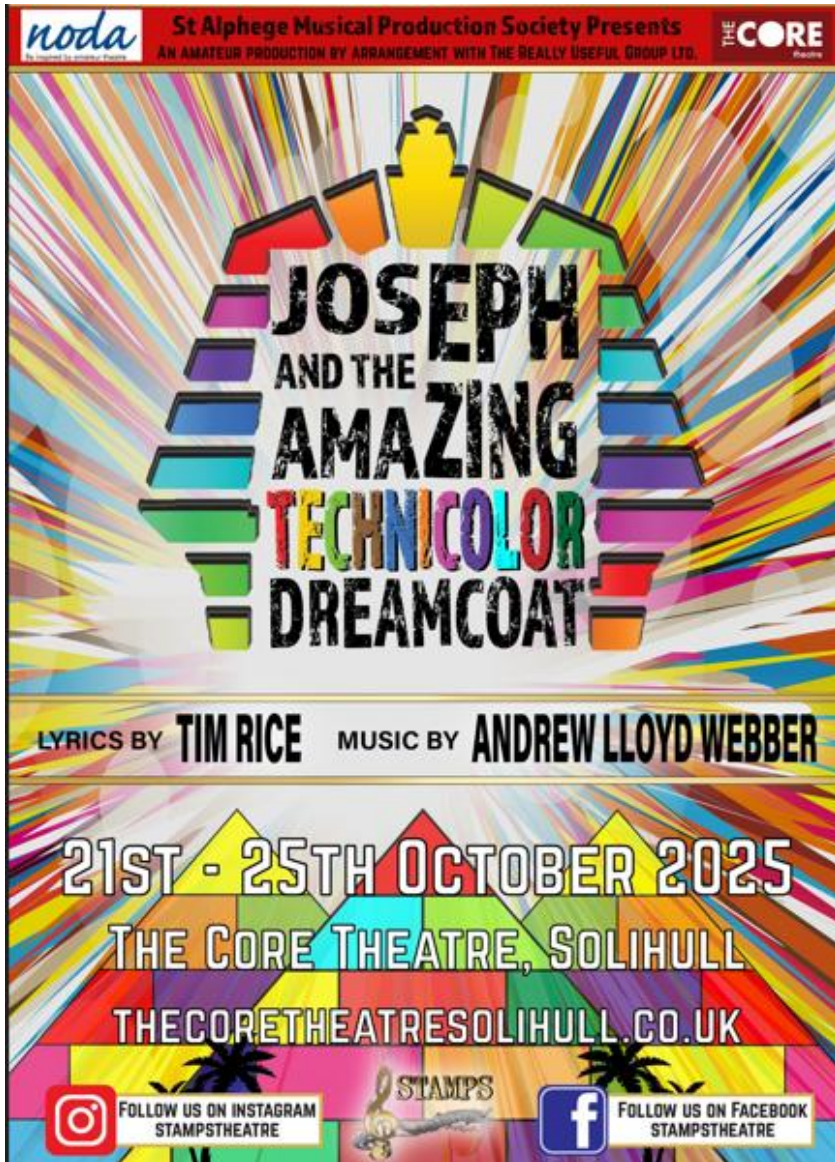
Water / Snacks



As a reminder, children can bring to school a piece of fruit or a healthy snack with them to eat during playtime (rather than chocolate or crisps from their lunchbox). They are also encouraged to have water in a plastic water bottle rather than squash or juice; as a reminder, metal water bottles are not to be brought into school. Thank you all for your support with this.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

It is wonderful to hear that children from OLC will be taking part in the production below at the Core Theatre in Solihull. If you wish to support our children and watch the performance, you will be able to purchase tickets via the Core Theatre website.



Catering in Primary Schools

Please see the following information from our Multi Academy Company, OLAAS:

- Aspens, our school meal caterer, have listened to the views of parents and pupils and have brought back some of the favourite meals as well as renamed meals so that they are easier to understand. They have also brought in a wider variety of vegetables, meals and desserts onto the menus.
- These new menus will be introduced on 1st November 2025.
- Due to high rising food costs, paid meals will rise by 5p per meal from £2.70 to £2.75 per meal from this date.
- Please ensure you have notified your school office of your child/children's allergies.

Meal Booking System



From Monday 22nd September there will be a change of booking system to order meals for your children. You should have received a letter by email on Friday explaining the change and how to set yourself up on the system. There are also links to short videos that explain this process too. If you encounter any problems, please let the office know. The expectation is that children's meals should be order by Sunday evening for the week ahead so that the right quantity of food is ordered and cooked, therefore limiting waste.

International Day of Peace



On September 21st, we join millions around the world in observing the International Day of Peace, a day dedicated to strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples. At OLC, peace is more than just the absence of conflict - it is about fostering kindness, understanding, and respect in every classroom, corridor, and conversation. This year's theme, "Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the Global Goals", reminds us that peace begins with each of us. Whether it is through a smile, a helping hand, or standing up for what is right, our daily choices shape the culture of our school and the wider world. Throughout the week, students will be invited to take part in reflective activities, creative projects, and discussions that explore what peace means to them. We encourage families to continue these conversations at home and celebrate the small, meaningful ways that we can all contribute to a more peaceful community. Let us take this opportunity to pause, reflect, and recommit to building a school where every voice is heard, every person is valued, and peace is a shared priority.